

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA
BRUNSWICK DIVISION

FILED
U.S. DISTRICT COURT
BRUNSWICK DIV.

2013 MAR -5 P 4:2b

ERIC WATKINS,

Plaintiff,

vs.

ANTHONY HAYNES, Warden;
DAVID NEWBOULD; JASON ROGERS;
JOSE FUENTES, KEITH WELLINGTON;
LANCE JAMES; RANDY MILTON;
RICKY DENT; STEEN NILE; TOMMY
CARTER, WESLEY POPWELL;
WILFREDO GODREAU; SHIRLEY
TERRADAS, Psychologist; JERRY
TINCER Associate Warden;
VELVETE CHARLES; and
DONALD HUDSON,

Defendants.

C. Robins
CLERK
SO. DIST. OF GA.

CIVIL ACTION NO.: CV212-037

ORDER

Plaintiff, proceeding pro se, filed this action on February 15, 2012. Defendants have moved for a dismissal of Plaintiff's claim.

The Court is reluctant to rule on said motion without receiving a response from the Plaintiff or insuring that Plaintiff is advised of the potential ramifications caused by his failure to respond. Once such a motion is filed, the opponent should be afforded a reasonable opportunity to respond to or oppose such a motion. This Court must consider that the Plaintiff in this case is a *pro se* litigant. *Haines v. Kerner*, 404 U. S. 519, 520 (1972). When a defendant or defendants file a motion to dismiss, the court must construe the complaint liberally in favor of plaintiff, taking all facts alleged by the plaintiff as true, even if doubtful in fact. *Bell Atlantic Corp. v. Twombly*, 550 U.S. 554, 555 (2007).

The granting of a motion to dismiss without affording the plaintiff either notice or any opportunity to be heard is disfavored. *Tazoe v. Airbus S.A.S.*, 631 F.3d 1321, 1336-37

(11th Cir. 2011). A local rule, such as Local Rule 7.5 of this court,¹ should not in any way serve as a basis for dismissing a *pro se* complaint where, as here, there is nothing to indicate plaintiff ever was made aware of it prior to dismissal. *Pierce v. City of Miami*, 176 F. App'x 12, 14 (11th Cir. 2006).

Accordingly, Plaintiff is hereby **ORDERED** to file any objections to the Defendants' motion for a dismissal, or to otherwise inform the court of his decision not to object to Defendants' motion within twenty-one (21) days of the date of this Order. *Tazoe*, 631 F.3d at 1336 (advising that a court can not dismiss an action without employing a fair procedure). Should Plaintiff not timely respond to Defendants' motion, the Court will determine that there is no opposition to the motion. See Local Rule 7.5. In order to assure that Plaintiff's response is made with fair notice of the requirements of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure regarding motions to dismiss, generally, and motions to dismiss for failure to state a claim upon which relief may be granted, the Clerk of Court is hereby instructed to attach a copy of Rule 41, FED. R. CIV. P., as well as Rule 12, FED. R. CIV. P., to the copy of this Order that is served on the Plaintiff.

SO ORDERED, this 5 day of March, 2013.



JAMES E. GRAHAM
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

¹ Local Rule 7.5 states:

Unless . . . the assigned judge prescribes otherwise, each party opposing a motion shall serve and file a response within fourteen (14) days of service of the motion, except that in cases of motions for summary judgment the time shall be twenty-one (21) days after service of the motion. Failure to respond shall indicate that there is no opposition to a motion. (emphasis added).